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MONTANA COMMITTEE FOR THE HUMANITIES
NEWSLETTER
Angela Santamaria, Editor

Suggested Program Topics

The Montana Committee for the Humanities accepts applications from any non-profit organization or ad hoc group interested in organizing a public program. Potential projects must be related to the theme "Traditions in Transition," involve college teachers in the liberal arts in the planning and implementation, focus on a public policy issue, provide for a balanced exchange of views, and be directed to the out-of-school adult public. In addition, applicants must be able to provide in-kind service and/or donated cash equalling the amount requested from the MCH.

The MCH encourages Montanans of diverse views and interests to apply for Committee grants. The following list of topics, while by no means exhaustive, shows the wide range of issues on which MCH-sponsored programs could focus. THE COMMITTEE IS, OF COURSE, OPEN TO OTHER IDEAS GRANT APPLICANTS MIGHT HAVE.

Safety in the Workplace. How safe are Montana's industrial and/or agricultural workplaces compared with those of other states and countries, or with our own of 25 or more years ago? Can/Should workers' safety be secured through new legislation? How much responsibility should individual workers be expected to assume for their own safety? Have OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) efforts been successful in decreasing work-related accidents and illnesses? How will recent court decisions regarding OSHA inspectors' fining of alleged violators of OSHA regulations effect safety in the workplace?

Coming of Age in the U.S. — The Teenaged Drinker. The reaching of the age of majority entails many rights and responsibilities -- political, social, and financial. Some minors feel the most

Safety in the Workplace? *Drills at work 1900 feet under Butte, c. 1910. Courtesy of Bill Farr (History Department, University of Montana).*

Upcoming Events in the Montana Public Program in the Humanities

March	
29-30	"Outreach Workshops: Spring, 1977" -- Butte
31	"Families in Transition" workshops/panel discussions -- Glendive
	"Down on the Farm" film, statewide TV airing. Date to be announced. Please consult local TV listings.
April	
3	"Montana As Science Sees It" (Boom or Bust) TV airing, MTN network
3-4	"Energy Bind -- Humanist and Expert Perspectives" conference -- Billings
4-5	"Montana Population/Food Conference" -- Billings
7	"Families in Transition" workshops/panel discussions -- Glendive
14	"Families in Transition" workshops/panel discussions -- Glendive
21	"Families in Transition" workshops/panel discussions -- Glendive
21-23	"Women Aware: Traditions in Transition" conference -- Bozeman
May	
3-4	Focus on Women "Outreach Workshops" -- Plentywood
5-6	Focus on Women "Outreach Workshops" -- Circle
19-20	Focus on Women "Outreach Workshops" -- Hamilton

important of these is the right to consume alcoholic beverages. Is there something about the lifestyle of adults around them which encourages this view? Are teenaged drinkers merely imitating their elders or is their behavior qualitatively different from that of adults? The 1977 Montana legislature debated whether the drinking age should be raised. Should there be a minimum drinking age at all?

Bilingualism for Montanans. Canadians of various ethnic backgrounds are encouraged and aided by their government to retain their original languages and cultures. Such support is also given in many U.S. communities to Spanish-speaking children who receive instruction in both Spanish and English. Similarly, students on Montana's Rocky Boy reservation study in both the Cree and English languages.

But what of individuals who consider their ancestral culture too remote to be of serious personal interest? Should fluency in some second language and culture be encouraged as intrinsically valuable to the individuals and their communities? Which languages should be offered? Should they be taught to young people only or should learning centers offer language and culture instruction at times convenient to all age groups so that whole families could study together?

Battered Women. Some women -- the exact number of which is difficult to determine -- are regularly beaten by the men with whom they live. Such assaults are, of course, illegal, but for the most part they go unreported as the victims often fear reprisals or embarassment.

A number of questions arise. Were battered women often physically abused as children? Do they tend to be child abusers themselves? How often are their assailants afflicted with alcoholism and/or a history of child abuse? Are state or locally-supported counselling services and halfway houses needed to remedy their situations? What is the history of this kind of violence against women in our culture? What have our poets and novelists said about it? In how many non-violent female-male relationships today is the threat of violence understood, though never made explicit, by the partners as the ultimate determining force in their relationships?

Small Business in Montana. *An early Montana small businessman in his Hamilton store. Courtesy of Bill Farr (History Department, University of Montana).*

Small Business in Montana. How difficult is it to begin a small business in this state? How does the size of the required capital investment vary from one type of small business to another? Do family owned and operated ranches/farms have much in common with small retail stores? What of the volume of government paper work required of businesses? Are elaborate reporting procedures necessary for large, impersonal concerns but not suitable for small ones? Should government regulations reflect more sensitivity to the special problems of small business? How effective are local and state Chambers of Commerce in supporting small businesses? How does the state of small business in other industrialized nations compare to that of our own country and state? Will t increased cost of energy for transporting goods result in the rise of locally manufactured products? What is the relationship between strong locally-based economies and political power?

Divorce. Divorce rates, it is said, are alarmingly high all over the country and higher in Montana than in most other states. How much more often are marriages breaking up now than thirty or more years ago when divorces were much more difficult to get? Is the American experience similar in any way to the Italian, for example? There, prior to recently legalized divorce, broken marriages were extremely common though they never formally became divorce statistics since divorce was illegal. Are Americans less able or willing to make marriages work than in the past, or are their standards for what constitutes a worthwhile marriage much higher than they used to be? Do we give too little to marriage and/or expect too much from it? Should th be local, state, or federal assista for those who divorce? Should alimony, child support, and financial credit practices be further altered to ease the problems divorced persons face?

Thank You, RSVP

The Montana Committee for the Humanities wishes to express its appreciation to the Missoula Retired Senior Volunteer Program for its assistance in labelling and bundling this and our November Newsletters for bulk mailing. RSVP members who prepared our November Newsletters for mailing were: Catherine Arkell, Zoe Barthelmess, Margaret Berglund, Gladys Bethke, Helen Eckwohl, Grace L. Mjolsness, and Josephine Oktabec.

Nominations Invited

There is one vacancy on the Montana Committee for the Humanities caused by the resignation of Alonzo Spang, Sr., of Billings. The MCH invites nominations from members of the public, and from interested groups, clubs, or organizations. An individual may nominate him/her self by sending a letter of application and a vita to the MCH; individuals or groups may nominate another person by sending a letter of recommendation, the nominee's vita, and a specific indication that the nominee has consented to the nomination. Nominations will close April 30, 1977.

The primary function of Committee members is to review grant applications and to evaluate funded programs. Committee members establish and implement regrant policies consistent with the authorizing legislation of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and are also expected to promote the aims of the MCH among the adult public in Montana, advise area citizens wishing to apply for grant funds, and assist the Committee staff with program development and evaluation.

Persons interested in serving as Committee members should have an interest in public affairs and in the liberal arts, a knowledge of Montana history and politics, a history of involvement in public service, and be willing to travel to meetings at least quarterly, and to review grant applications monthly. Travel and per diem expenses are reimbursed by the MCH, but members do not receive pay for their Committee work or for participation in MCH-funded public programs.

An independent citizens committee, the Montana Committee for the Humanities seeks to be broadly representative of the state's geographic, political, and economic interests. Half of the Committee membership consists of public members, and half of academic humanists and administrators. Future vacancies will be announced as they occur.

MCH Grant Awards

In the last five months the Montana Committee for the Humanities funded the following projects:

Government Regulation of Society, sponsored by the Sigma Xi Club, Montana Tech. A 2-day conference in Butte (December, 1976) with lectures and panel discussions addressing public issues of government regulation of wilderness, the Privacy Act of 1977, anti-sex discrimination laws, and government regulation of health care as related to the terminally ill. $2,480.

History of the Flathead Valley, Sponsored by the Total Community Education Program at Flathead Valley Community College. A film project exploring the history of the Flathead Valley. $1,307.

COMMITTEE NOTES

The Montana Committee for the Humanities is a group of 14 citizens from across the state who serve in a voluntary capacity for 3-year terms. In December, 1976, MCH chairman Bradley B. Parrish (Lewistown attorney), Louise Cross (AAUW, Glendive), Hal Stearns (former executive director of the Montana Bicentennial Commission, Helena); Margaret Warden (state senator, Great Falls); and Flora K. Willett (Professor of English, Eastern Montana College, Billings), completed their terms of membership. The MCH looks forward to the continued benefit of their advice, and welcomes new Committee members Richard Bowers (President, University of Montana, Missoula); Charles Brinley (President, Westmoreland Resources, Billings); John Jutila (Dean, College of Letters and Science, Montana State University, Bozeman); Joseph Sample (President, Montana Television Network, Billings); and Paulette Sheron (President, Montana Federation of Teachers, Butte).

Replacing Mr. Parrish as MCH chairman is Carroll College President Francis J. Kerins. Brockway rancher Phillip G. Haglund, Sr. succeeds Dr. Kerins as MCH vice-chairman.

The Montana Population/Food Conference, sponsored by Eastern Montana College and the Population/Food Fund. A 2-day conference in Billings (April 4-5, 1977) with lectures and panel discussions. The discussions will focus on issues of world population and how it affects Montana; food production and provision and their effect on agricultural areas such as Montana. $4,764.

Water Use Along the Kootenai, Sponsored by Lincoln County Extension Service and Lincoln County Conservation District. A public discussion in Eureka on January 20, 1977, using the slide show produced for "Water for All Our Tomorrows." The program explored the concept of planning use of water resources, and the value conflicts involved in the decision-making process. $170.

Water Resources, sponsored by Fergus County Town and Country Days Association. A one-day program using the slide show "Water for All Our Tomorrows," incorporated with the Town and Country Days, February 4, 1977. John Badgley of the Institute of the Rockies presented the slide show and served as the resource person. $109.

A Dialogue of Awareness and Understanding in Northeastern Montana, sponsored by the Fort Peck Tribal Education Department. A one-day conference in Poplar (February 16, 1977) to discuss the socio-economic impact of community colleges on rural areas. $2,100.

The Future of Montana's Economy, sponsored by the Ad Hoc Committee for a Public Forum on the Future of Montana's Economy. A three-day conference in Helena (February 18-20, 1977) addressing technology and energy issues relating to Montana and the future of its economy. Keynote speakers were Ernst F. Schumacher and Malcolm Forbes, Sr. A film of the conference will also be produced under this grant, and will be available to the public this summer. $9,300.

Montanans and Foreign Affairs, sponsored by the Committee to Preserve Montana History. A one-hour televised panel discussion aired on

MTN stations (March 26, 1977) exploring the political, economic, cultural, and geographic conditions which have formed the attitudes of Montanans toward foreign policies. $3,530.

Women Aware: Traditions in Transition, sponsored by Focus on Women, MSU. A 3-day conference in Bozeman (April 21-23, 1977) involving a series of lectures and workshops. The four major areas to be addressed and how changes in the roles of men and women affect them include "The World of Work," "Self Identity," "Social Pressures," and "The Family." The keynote speakers will include Jennifer James, Estelle Ramey, and Jessie Bernard. $8,684.

Outreach Workshops: Spring, 1977, sponsored by Focus on Women, MSU. A series of six workshops in Kalispell, Billings, Butte, Plentywood, Circle and Hamilton to examine the legal, historical, and social rights and choices of women in Montana. $9,803.

An Historic District in Billings? How Come?, sponsored by the Historic District Committee of Landmarks, Inc. A one-day conference in Billings (March 10, 1977) to discuss the possibility of rejuvenation of the original commercial area of Billings and how this could affect those people living in the area, those working in the area, and the rest of the city. $2,819.

Families in Transition, sponsored by the Ad Hoc Committee representing Action for Eastern Montana, Eastern Montana Community Mental Health Center and Dawson College. A series of workshops/panel discussions in Glendive (March, April, 1977) exploring the transition of the traditional family unit given changing roles of family members, with special attention to parenthood, family economics, human sexuality, family services as provided by social agencies, and the sociological function of the family. $3,049.

The Energy Bind — Humanist and Expert Perspectives, sponsored by the Institute of the Rockies and the Montana Energy and MHD Research and Development Institute (MERDI). A two-day conference in Billings (April, 1977) exploring the linkage between technology, energy and lifestyles and discussing the possible effect of energy conservation upon our present lifestyle. Keynote speakers are Norman MacLean and Clarence "Pete" Mondale. $6,680.

The Montana Committee for the Humanities

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